



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sadao FUJII et al.

Title:

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Examiner:

P. Hampton Hightower

Art Unit:

1711

## UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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## TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR \$1.97(b)(4), before the mailing of a first Office action with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under \$1.114.

## RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to Applicants' attentention during a search of the corresponding Japanese application. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP \$609.

The Commissi ner is hereby authorized t charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized t charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 13, 2003

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